

Ecology response for F/23/95507 Willow Bee, Allington Lane, Eastleigh, SO30 3HP

Replacement entrance gate, hardstanding, and frontage fence (Retrospective).

Rachael Morris

23/8/23

I have reviewed the site photos and aerial photos from Google maps (2023 imagery) and Google earth (2000 to the present). The Google maps street view photo of the site from Allington Lane (March 2023) shows a line of scrub has been removed from between two large trees and a large green tank at the site entrance.

The site is within an amber great crested newt impact risk zone with records of great crested newts approximately 550 m to the north and to the northwest. From the photos the habitat which was cleared could have supported amphibians such as great crested newts, reptiles, nesting birds and hedgehogs.

From the Gates and Fencing Proposed plan by Solent Design (Rev B June 2023) it is not clear whether the closed board timber fence is just at the front of the site or continues all the way around the property. There are two rectangles at on the northern side of the area shown as hardstanding which have not been labelled on the plan.

The lamp post and red post box shown in the site photos give the site a residential appearance.

The site entrance has been cleared of vegetation and the surface appears to have been compacted. There is a black surface water drainage pipe/culvert which has been laid across and under the site entrance and closed board fencing with solid (concrete) base boards has been constructed at the entrance and along the Allington Lane road frontage.

A net loss of biodiversity has occurred on site due to the removal of vegetation. This is contrary to local and national policies (DM 1 and the NPPF) which require biodiversity net gain. A biodiversity enhancement and management plan (BMEP) is required. This must show how biodiversity net gain will be achieved on site. The must compensate for the loss of habitat and provide biodiversity enhancements to ensure net gain.

A surface water drainage plan is required.

The closed board fence must have gaps in the base boards (15 x 15 cm minimum) where small mammals such as hedgehogs can move freely across the property.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist